



BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

Torquay Riparian Authority REPORT, 1948



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(The work in connexion with Port Health Administration is carried out by the above members of the Public Health Staff, in the course of the general Public Health Administration of the Borough.)

BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1948

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1948, detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health contained in Memorandum 302/S.A. and Circular 164/48.

I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE A.

			Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
					By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector				
Foreign—										
Steamers	...	1	709	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Motor	...	9	974	2	9	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing	...	34	325	3	32	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing	...	71	1577	—	70	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	115	3585	5	112	—	—	—	—	—
Coastwise—										
Steamers	...	5	1432	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Motor	...	6	524	1	5	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing	...	143	4010	4	140	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing	...	652	4633	—	482	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	806	10599	5	632	—	—	—	—	—
Total—Foreign and Coastwise			921	14184	10	744	—	—	—	—

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(a) *Passenger Traffic during the year.*

This is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.

(b) *Cargo Traffic.*

There were imports of eight cargoes, four of timber, one of slates, two of onions, and one of cauliflowers ; there were no exports.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

(1) *Source of Supply for (a) the Port, (b) Shipping.*

The town supply drawn direct from the main is the source of supply used.

(2) *Hydrants and Hosepipes. What precautions are taken against Contamination?*

These are flushed prior to use and inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector.

(3) *Number of water boats and their sanitary condition.*

There are no water boats.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 and 1945.

(1) *Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.*

Declarations of Health in the approved form are completed by the Master of the Vessel and handed to the Customs Official or Port Sanitary Inspector who, should occasion require it, communicates immediately with the Medical Officer of Health.

(2) *Boarding of vessels on arrival.*

All foreign and coastwise vessels are boarded and inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and by the Medical Officer of Health if required ; and a few vessels are inspected by the Medical Officer of Health as a routine.

(3) *Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention (wireless messages, land signal stations, information from Pilots, Customs Officers, etc.).*

Arrangements are made with the Post Office for the transmission of wireless messages if required. None was received in 1948.

(4) *Mooring stations designated under Article 10.*

(a) Within the docks.

(b) Outside the docks.

In March, 1934, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise formally agreed to the establishment under Article 10 of a mooring station for ships arriving at Torquay between Buoys No. 11 and No. 19 in the Outer Harbour. The agreement is subject to the understanding that the mooring-place referred to is for all ships unhealthy under the Regulations, that a standing exemption under Article 14 has been granted and that the Local Health Authority will meet the cost of conveying Customs Officers when boarding ships detained at the Mooring Station.

(5) *Particulars of standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14.*

A standing exemption under Article 14 has been granted by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of ships with infectious diseases other than cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus fever, smallpox and chicken-pox on board, and ships otherwise clear, arriving from ports in areas listed under Article 11.

(6) *Experience of working Article 16.*

There has been no experience of this during 1948.

(7) *What, if any, arrangements have been made for:—*

(a) *Premises and waiting rooms for medical examinations.*

There are no premises specially designated for medical examinations, but there is an office at the harbour where such examinations may be made.

(b) *Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles.*

The Authority is not competent to undertake the disinfection of ships which, when occasion arises, are referred to Plymouth for this purpose.

The cleansing of persons and the disinfection of clothing and other articles can be undertaken at the Isolation Hospital.

(c) *Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons for which such accommodation is required for the purposes of the Regulations.*

No special premises have been designated for the temporary accommodation of persons, but should this become necessary, it would be provided at one of the Hospitals in the area.

(d) *Hospital accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other infectious diseases.*

For smallpox cases there is a central institution at Upton Pine, near Exeter. No special hospital accommodation is available for plague, cholera or yellow fever, but if any such disease were suspected the assistance of one of the large Isolation Hospitals of the South-West Region would be sought. Other infectious diseases are dealt with at the Torquay Isolation Hospital.

(e) *Ambulance Transport.*

An adequate and efficient Ambulance Service is available day and night for infectious or non-infectious cases.

(f) *Supervision of Contacts.*

This is undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health or by the Sanitary Inspector, according to the requirements of the particular case.

(8) *Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rats for plague.*

The required examinations are made through the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

(9) *Arrangements for other bacteriological or pathological examinations.*

Examinations under this heading are made either at the Torbay Hospital Laboratory, Torquay, or through the Public Health Laboratory Service, Exeter.

(10) *Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among sailors under international arrangements.*

A venereal disease clinic is held at Torbay Hospital, Torquay, for men on Wednesdays at 5-30-7-30 p.m., and in addition there are arrangements for daily treatment if this is required : in-patient treatment is given at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter.

The personnel of all ships are circulated with leaflets informing them of the facilities.

(11) *Arrangements for the interment of dead.*

There is an adequately equipped Borough Mortuary at St. Marychurch Town Hall ; and when built, accommodation was provided in excess of that ordinarily anticipated in peace-time, so that it would meet the needs of any mishap at sea or on shore.

The nearest crematorium is at Plymouth ; but there was no death at the port in 1948.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
—	—	—	—	—

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No. of Cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
—	—	—	—	—

No cases of plague, cholera, yellow fever, smallpox or typhus fever occurred on any vessel using the port, and no plague-infested rats were discovered.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

(1) *Steps taken for detection of rodent plague.*

(a) *In ships in the port.*

Enquiries are made from all Masters of Vessels using the port concerning the presence of rats, and, if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats. Owing to the small size of the vessels and of the nature of the cargo carried, it is uncommon to find any evidence of rat infestation.

(b) *On quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the port.*

Regular inspection is made by the Sanitary Inspector and any unusual signs are notified to the Medical Officer.

(2) *Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and the shore.*

Notice is given to each Master who must adopt these precautions in order to prevent the passage of rats between the ships and the shore; protectors must be fitted on hawsers (or hawsers to be frapped with canvas and freshly tarred each night to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Inspector), and gangways must be removed at night.

(3) *Method of deratisation of*

(a) *Ships.*

Any ship requiring deratisation is referred to Plymouth for the necessary measures, and the next port of call of the vessel is notified.

(b) *Premises in the vicinity of docks or quays.*

These premises are inspected regularly by the Rodent Operatives under the Sanitary Inspector, and systematic pre-baiting and baiting carried out as required.

(4) *Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore.*

Systematic inspections are made, with special reference to the presence of rat excreta, rat runs, damage to foodstuffs, etc.

(5) *Rat-proofing.*

(a) *To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouses, etc., rat proof.*

The quays are of cement and there are concrete walls, with sheet zinc extensions below ground.

(b) *Action taken to extend rat-proofing.*

(i) *In ships.*

Masters are advised and regularly reminded of the necessity for storing food in containers which are rat-proof, and of the necessity for avoiding any collection of food refuse, etc., which might attract rats.

Tables E and F. There was no trace of rat infestation, and no rats were destroyed during the year. *Table G and Table H* are not applicable.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessels	Number Inspected during the year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British ...	1	—	—	—
Other Nations	63	—	—	1

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

- (1) *Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940.*

The only importation of food were two cargoes of onions and one of cauliflowers ; no action was required under the Regulations.

- (2) *Shell Fish.*

Information respecting any shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the P.H.A. stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, liable to pollution. Report of any action taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

There are no oyster or mussel beds within the jurisdiction of the Authority, and no action was taken under the above-mentioned Regulations or Act.

- (3) *Number of samples of food examined: Nil.*

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